

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1–8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (new). An arrangement in a data switch having a plurality of ingress ports and egress ports connected by a switching fabric, the arrangement comprising:

a plurality of ingress queues configured to queue data derived from data packets received at the ingress ports;

a broadcast packet estimation unit configured to obtain a measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets based on a measure of the length of at least one of the queues; and

a broadcast packet control unit having a broadcast storm control mode in which the broadcast packet control unit performs a broadcast storm control operation, the broadcast packet control unit configured to operate in broadcast storm control mode based on the obtained measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets.

Claim 10 (new). The arrangement according to claim 9 wherein the broadcast packet estimation unit is configured to determine the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets as the length of the longest of the queues.

Claim 11 (new). The arrangement according to claim 10 wherein the broadcast packet control unit is configured to perform the broadcast storm control by deleting at least some of the broadcast packets.

Claim 12 (new). The arrangement claim according to claim 11 the broadcast packet control unit is configured to perform the broadcast storm control by deleting at least some of the broadcast packets when the broadcast packet estimation unit indicates that the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets is above a first predetermined level.

Claim 13 (new). The arrangement according to claim 12 in which the broadcast packet deletion unit is configured to cease deleting packets when the broadcast packet estimation unit indicates that the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets is below a second predetermined level.

Claim 14 (new). The arrangement according to claim 9 wherein the broadcast packet control unit is configured to perform the broadcast storm control by deleting at least some of the broadcast packets.

Claim 15 (new). The arrangement claim according to claim 14 the broadcast packet control unit is configured to perform the broadcast storm control by deleting at least some of the broadcast packets when the broadcast packet estimation unit indicates that the

measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets is above a first predetermined level.

Claim 16 (new). The arrangement claim according to claim 14 the broadcast packet control unit is configured to perform the broadcast storm control when the broadcast packet estimation unit indicates that the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets is above a first predetermined level.

Claim 17 (new). A method of operating a data switch having a plurality of ingress ports and egress ports connected by a switching fabric, the switch having a plurality of ingress queues for queuing data derived from data packets arriving at the ingress ports, the method comprising:

- a) deriving a measure of a length of at least one of the queues;
- b) using the measure of a length of at least one of the queues to obtain a measure of a frequency of arrival of broadcast packets; and
- c) triggering a broadcast storm control mode in which broadcast storm control is performed according to the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets.

Claim 18 (new). The method according to claim 17 wherein step b) further comprises using the measure of a length of the longest of the queues to obtain the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets.

Claim 19 (new). The method of according to claim 18 wherein step c) further comprises triggering a broadcast storm control mode in which broadcast storm control is performed when the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets rises above a first predetermined level.

Claim 20 (new). The method according to claim 19, wherein the broadcast storm control is performed by deleting at least some of the broadcast packets.

Claim 21 (new). The method according to claim 20 further including a step of ceasing to delete packets when the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets falls below a second predetermined level.

Claim 22 (new). The method of according to claim 17 wherein step c) further comprises triggering a broadcast storm control mode in which broadcast storm control is performed when the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets rises above a first predetermined level.

Claim 23 (new). The method according to claim 22, wherein the broadcast storm control is performed by deleting at least some of the broadcast packets.

Claim 24 (new). The method according to claim 17 wherein step b) further comprises using a sum a length a plurality of the at least one queues to obtain the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets.

Claim 25 (new). A method of operating a data switch having a plurality of ingress ports and egress ports connected by a switching fabric, the switch having a plurality of ingress queues for queuing data derived from data packets arriving at the ingress ports, the method comprising:

- a) deriving a measure of a length of at least one of the queues;
- b) using the measure of a length of a longest of the at least one queues to obtain a measure of a frequency of arrival of broadcast packets; and
- c) deleting at least some of the broadcast packets based upon the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets.

Claim 26 (new). The method of claim 25 wherein step b) further comprises using the measure of the length of the longest of the at least one queues as the measurement of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets.

Claim 27 (new). The method according to claim 26 further including a step of ceasing to delete packets when the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets falls below a second predetermined level.

Claim 28 (new). The method according to claim 25 further including a step of ceasing to delete packets when the measure of the frequency of arrival of broadcast packets falls below a second predetermined level.